

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16517

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: PENTECOSTALS IN KIEV EXPRESS GREAT FEAR OF
IMMEDIATE FUTURE FOR THEIR MOVEMENT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 12120, (B) MOSCOW AIRGRAM A-73

1. SUMMARY: TWO SOVIET PENTECOSTALS WHO CAME TO THE KIEV ADVANCE PARTY OFFICES IN MAY RETURNED JULY 11 AND STATED THAT GREAT FEAR OF IMMEDIATE FUTURE HAS GRIPPED THE SOVIET PENTECOSTAL COMMUNITY OWING TO INCREASES IN THE VARIOUS HARASSMENTS THEY SUFFER AND THE RECENT AND ONGOING TRIALS OF DISSIDENTS AND REFUSENIKS. THE VISITORS CLAIMED THERE IS A NATIONWIDE LIST AT OVIRS OF 5000 PENTECOSTAL FAMILIES WHO ARE FORBIDDEN TO EMIGRATE PENDING A FINAL KREMLIN SOLUTION OF THE PENTECOSTAL "PROBLEM." PENTECOSTALS IN NAKHODKA HAVE BEEN THREATENED WITH EXTREME PHYSICAL HARM, THE VISITORS STATED. END SUMMARY.

2. PYOTR PAVLOVICH CHERNISHEV AND ANATOLIY YAKOVLEVICH ANISHCHENKO, TWO MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SOVIET PENTECOSTALISTS WHICH VISITED KIEV ADVANCE PARTY OFFICES IN MAY 1978 (REFS A AND B), RETURNED TO KAP ON JULY 11,
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1978. THEY WANTED A STATUS REPORT ON THEIR REQUESTS FOR VYZOV AND OTHER ASSISTANCE FROM THE WEST. THEY ALSO WANTED TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE POSITION OF SOVIET PENTECOSTALISTS SINCE MAY. GREAT FEAR OF THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, THEY SAID, HAS GRIPPED THE SECT. THREATS, ASSAULTS, ROCKS THROUGH WINDOWS, LOSS OF JOBS VARIOUS CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND OTHER SUCH HARASSMENT HAS

INCREASED A GREAT DEAL RECENTLY, THEY EXPLAINED.

3. THE VISITORS WERE AWARE OF RECENT AND ONGOING COURT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST DISSIDENTS AND REFUSENIKS THROUGH FOREIGN RADIO BROADCASTS. ANISHCHENKO HAD MET SLEPAK IN THE PAST. THESE PROCEEDINGS HAVE ALSO FANNED PENTECOSTAL FEARS OF WHAT AWAITS THEM IN THE USSR, THE MEN STATED. ANISHCHENKO WHISPERED HIS GOVERNMENT FRIENDS IN SUKHUMI, WHERE HE LIVES, HAVE LET HIM KNOW IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT LOCAL KGB AUTHORITIES ARE MOMENTARILY EXPECTING ORDERS FROM MOSCOW THAT WILL ALLOW THE LOCAL ORGANS TO "REALLY GET TOUGH" WITH THE PENTECOSTALS. ANISHCHENKO SAID THIS WILL MEAN EXILE TO THE SOVIET FAR EAST, BREAK-UP OF FAMILIES, AND LARGE-SCALE OVERT VIOLENCE AGAINST BELIEVERS AND THEIR PROPERTY. EMIGRATION AND MASSIVE PRESSURE FROM THE WEST, THE UNITED STATES IN PARTICULAR, IS THEIR ONLY HOPE, THEY STRESSED.

4. BOTH MEN CLAIMED THE SOVIET PENTECOSTAL COMMUNITY HAS CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF A NATIONWIDE KGB-COMPILED LIST THAT INCLUDES ABOUT 5000 PENTECOSTAL FAMILIES WHO ARE ALWAYS TO BE REFUSED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE, PENDING A FINAL KREMLIN SOLUTION OF THE PENTECOSTAL "PROBLEM." THEY WOULD NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY HOW THE COMMUNITY LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE LIST, EXCEPT TO SAY FRIENDS CAN STILL BE FOUND. THEY UNDERSTAND THIS LIST CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS BEEN SENT TO EVERY OVIR IN THE USSR SO THERE WOULD BE NO CHANCE OF A LIST FAMILY EMIGRATING BY APPLYING TO AN OVIR IN A DIFFERENT PART OF THE COUNTRY.

5. THE VISITORS STATED THE SITUATION IN NAKHODKA IS ALREADY ESPECIALLY BAD AND IS A SIGNAL OF WHAT IS COMING. THE BRETHREN THERE HAVE BEEN ORDERED NOT TO LEAVE THE CITY AND MANY IMMIGRATION-RELATED DOCUMENTS COURIERS WERE TO TAKE TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED, THEY ADDED. BEATINGS, CONTINUAL SURVEILLANCE, AND THREATS BY AUTHORITIES THAT PENTECOSTALS CAN EXPECT EXTREME PHYSICAL HARM ARE EVERYDAY OCCURRENCES.

6. REGARDING THE PENTECOSTALS' VYZOV STATUFNAND PLIGHT, THE VISITORS WERE TOLD KAP/EMBASSY HAD CONTACTED RELATIVES AND VOLUNTEER AGENCIES IN THE WEST ON THEIR BEHALF AND PASSED ON THEIR VYZOV REQUESTS WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.

7. PENTECOSTALS INDICATED DURING CONVERSATION THAT SINCE KAP IS ONLY USG INSTALLATION IN USSR TO WHICH THEY HAVE EASY ACCESS, THEY PLAN TO RETURN FREQUENTLY TO INFORM

US OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AMONG THEIR BELIEVERS.
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